SOCIAL PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS IN BANGLADESH: KEY CHALLENGES & WAYS FORWARD FOR ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY

CARE Bangladesh | SHOUHARDO II Program
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# List of Acronyms

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIDS</td>
<td>Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies</td>
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<td>CARE-B</td>
<td>CARE Bangladesh</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FFW</td>
<td>Food For Work</td>
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<td>FSS</td>
<td>Food Security Strategy</td>
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<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non Government Organization</td>
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<td>MYAP</td>
<td>Multi-Year Assistance Program</td>
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<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non Government Organizations</td>
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<td>PACC</td>
<td>Program Advisory and Coordination Committee</td>
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<td>PEP</td>
<td>Poor and Extreme Poor</td>
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<td>RC</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator</td>
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<td>RTM</td>
<td>Regional Technical Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHOUHARDO</td>
<td>Strengthen Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities</td>
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<td>SSNP</td>
<td>Social Safety Net Programs</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Program</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>VGD</td>
<td>Vulnerable Group Development</td>
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<td>VGF</td>
<td>Vulnerable Group Feeding</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Program</td>
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Background

Bangladesh has developed a large portfolio of programs over the past 20 years. With approximately 16 Ministries and several Non Government Organizations (NGOs) actively involved in the implementation of the safety net programs, as well as an array of different donors and affiliated stakeholders, the system has become deeply complex.

Several studies have shown that existing safety nets provide limited coverage. It is reported that 45 percent of the households in rural Bangladesh participate in at least one social safety net program; however, the current system excludes many poor populations and includes many non-poor populations. Several other concerns have emerged about the consistency and effectiveness of the broad range of schemes currently in operation.

In Bangladesh, CARE has been a major player in working with the extreme poor populations in both urban and rural settings, addressing food insecurity and poverty through the implementation of various development projects, in particular, the Strengthen Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) II Program, a promotive social protection scheme.

Objectives

This seminar brings together experts in the field of social protection in Bangladesh to develop recommendations for ways to address difficulties across the national social protection agenda. Specifically, the seminar aims to:

1. Consider the policy and legal environment affecting targeting in Social Protection programs
2. Review the regional findings on how Social Protection initiatives could contribute more in protecting food security in Bangladesh
3. Identify opportunities, challenges and strategies to effectively address issues and gaps and access of PEP in Social Protection interventions
4. Pursue a policy environment for Social Protection to be more pro-poor in order to protect food security for sustainable development.

Further issues to be discussed include:

Targeting: Due to unfair targeting processes in many social protection schemes, many poor and extreme poor are unable to access the schemes they are entitled to and are deprived of their rights. This event brings policy makers together to discuss ways to prevent leakages in these systems.

Program Advisory and Coordination Committee involvement: This event is part of a comprehensive approach to involving government at all levels, reporting to 14 different line Ministries of the Government of Bangladesh and known as the Program Advisory and Coordination Committee (PACC). PACC members at the local level are the authorities that distribute most social protection schemes. When asked how local constraints on the distribution of social protection schemes could be alleviated,
they responded with requests for a national, policy-level dialogue to bring positive policy changes in favor of Poor and extreme poor people.

**Sustainability:** As a time-bound development program, SHOUHARDO II is concerned with achieving sustainable and long-lasting change to communities. This Seminar is an opportunity to share and develop means of achieving this sustainability.

**Advocacy opportunities:** Previous SHOUHARDO advocacy initiatives have successfully influenced the Domestic Violence Act as well as facilitating effective access to *Khasland* for the PEP. This has given us confidence to engage in policy advocacy regarding the recently announced national Social Protection Strategy, which is currently under development.

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**Seminar Report on 'Social Protection Interventions in Bangladesh: Key Challenges and Way Forwards for Enhancing Food Security'**

CIRDAP International Conference Centre, Dhaka, Thursday, 22 May 2014

**Introduction**

*Monjur Rashid, Knowledge Management Coordinator, SHOUHARDO II Program, CARE Bangladesh,*

Welcomed the guests, attendees and media, thanking donors and development partners and explaining that CARE Bangladesh hosted the event.

He described the SHOUHARDO II Program, explaining that it is one of the world's largest non-emergency food security programs and is aimed at poverty reduction and funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Bangladesh. He gave some details about the Program, including the overall goal and the five strategic objectives, and recognized the 14 Government of Bangladesh Ministries who play an active role through the Program Advisory and Coordination Committee.

Mr. Rashid outlined the challenges in successfully connecting target beneficiaries of social protection programs, including the structural weaknesses and lack of coordination that have caused overlapping and mismanagement.

He gave some background to the role of the SHOUHARDO II Program and the aims of the funding bodies in targeting the poor and extreme poor and improving their food security. He explained that the experiences of SHOUHARDO II will play a role in strengthening the Government’s social protection policies as they are revised.
He indicated the three main focuses of the day's seminar:

1. Determining ways to increase the activity of all stakeholders, to ensure that services can be provided to beneficiaries at their doorstep.
2. To discuss ways to identify and provide for the differing needs of geographically fragmented beneficiary populations and remove existing leakages by involving those communities.
3. To improve food security through social protection programs.

He mentioned that this discussion was not to be based on any particular study or research findings, but rather a range of previous studies and secondary sources. It is an opportunity to explore the above issues at a national, which have been previously discussed at seminars of the same name in the four SHOUHARDO II implementing regions. He noted that a list of the challenges and ways forward that were identified in those regional workshops were included in the seminar pack.

He concluded by saying that the knowledgeable speakers and attendees would be able to provide a series of recommendations that will remove existing barriers to effective social protection and can be taken to the government level in order to strengthen existing policies, ensuring that the poor and extreme poor reap the benefits.

He introduced the Moderator, Professor Abul Barkat, PhD, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka.
Keynote Speakers

Social Protection: Frontier issues
Professor Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, Chairman, Unnayan Onneshan

The Keynote Speaker discussed progress that has been made in the field of social protection including social safety net programs, suggesting that policies, activities, funding and government structures need to be revised. Discussing limited coverage, leakage and problems with adequate targeting, he stressed the importance of bringing as many vulnerable people as possible under the coverage of social protection, as well as addressing a fragmented bureaucracy. Food shocks, limited dietary diversity and institutional constraints on women were also named as problems limiting food security.

Decentralization was identified as a tool for future progress, including the increased involvement of local governments. Professor Titumir suggests moving on from an approach that generates mere structural adjustments to a completely new phase of social protection. This keynote paper can be accessed in Annex 1.

CARE Experiences on Social Protection
Marc Nosbach, Chief of Party, SHOUHARDO II Program, CARE Bangladesh

Introducing the food security approach of CARE, Mr. Nosbach stressed the importance of combining traditional safety net mechanisms, with activities that promote and protect the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable women and their families, thereby reducing risk and vulnerability.
Specifically, the SHOUHARDO II Program has found success in focusing broadly on mechanisms to support livelihoods; promote health, hygiene and nutrition; empower women and girls; connect vulnerable people to local government; and build resilience to disasters. The program has also sought to address the problems of entrenched poverty and marginalization, using a bottom-up method of empowering some of the poorest and most marginalized populations of Bangladesh to attain their basic rights.

Marc Nosbach, Chief of Party, SHOUHARDO II Program sharing CARE's experiences on social protection

Mr Nosbach discussed challenges in achieving adequate social protection, mentioning the 22.5 million eligible Bangladeshis who have been unable to access coverage and identifying the role that politically or locally influential individuals play in selecting recipients as a significant cause of leakage.

He echoed the call to address program fragmentation and create a more cohesive national strategy, as well as for greater promotion of programs and safety nets and the involvement of local government to address leakage and improve transparency.

Special Guest Speakers

Md. Mashiur Rahman Ranga, MP, Honorable State Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh

The speaker said that the Government of Bangladesh has many social protection schemes which are timely and relevant, and human development indicators show good progress, but there is capacity for improvement. Donors, NGOs, and the private sector are all contributing to this system, but there is still scope to strengthen the stakeholders.
Effective implementation of activities and proper distribution and management will lead to equitable access and use of social protection programs.

He said that the Government of Bangladesh has taken steps to decentralize the social protection program. Suggesting that local elites can be involved and contribute to these strategies, he also highlighted the importance of removing people’s dependency on aid and encouraging a shift to income-generating processes. The identification and removal of obstacles and barriers to doing this will be key for the future. If possible, government allocations could be increased: the Government’s willingness and wishes to create change will play a crucial role.

Paul Sabatine, Acting Mission Director, USAID Bangladesh

The speaker began by focusing on our aims to work together more effectively, analyzing challenges and barriers.

He said that poverty and ending hunger are key priorities for USAID and the world; USAID is proud to have contributed to the success of poverty reduction in Bangladesh, particularly through its Food for Peace and Title-II programs.

He recognized that there are many new people and communities we need to reach, but these goals are achievable, saying that he is "confident we can put today's recommendations into action."
Mr Sabatine thanked CARE and the SHOUHARDO II Program, calling their achievements' truly inspirational', and the Government for their tremendous support, saying he looked forward to continuing to work together.

**Chief Guest Speaker**

**AHM Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh**

The speaker recognized the "noble cause" of the Seminar, to find out the ways and means to address issues of food security in Bangladesh. He reiterated the message that resilience is key in achieving change, and emphasized the need to seek sustainable growth in a consistent way.

Emphasizing national achievements and the progress made towards food security, the Minister mentioned that statistics on poverty reduction show that Bangladesh is catching up with the rest of the world. He said Bangladeshis are accessing both food support and education, and that with a quarter of all planning ministry projects devoted to assisting vulnerable groups: "Our social safety net is now widespread... it covers everybody". Talking about a changing world economy, he also said that "Our emphasis should be on education. ... We want to see everybody getting education here." He also proposed that we should further capitalize on Bangladesh's large population.
He said that inclusiveness and comprehensiveness is essential; poor, vulnerable, coastal, and slum-dwelling citizens and people from all spheres should be included. He emphasized our responsibility to reach out to our neighbors and ensure they are not hungry. "If a strategy leaves out a particular portion of our society, we are failing."

The Minister expressed the Ministry of Planning's "dream of making Bangladesh free from hunger by 2030", adding, and "I want support from all in this regard".
Working session: Knowledge-sharing by expert panel and open discussions

Following a tea break, expert guests were invited to speak and respond to questions from attendees.

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, Former Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Referring to the National Strategy Paper, the speaker suggested focusing on strengthening selection criteria and coordination of all social protection programs and schemes, including examining those existing and determining whether they can be used effectively in conjunction, with the possibility of introducing new programs where necessary. "We will have to take stock of the current projects. New projects might be taken up, while some projects could be merged". He emphasized the necessity of these improved programs to have clear coordination of needs and allocation.

He said that while budgetary allocations had increased in recent years, cost benefit and impact analyses show that adequate results have not been achieved so far. "The yield is not satisfactory. We have to find out the reasons behind the failure to achieve desired success and take remedial steps." While capacity and competency development is happening, poverty reduction is what we have to focus on.

Identifying the major barriers to successful programs, Mr. Khaled mentioned inadequate beneficiary targeting, nepotism, corruption and leakage, and overlapping of program distribution. He suggested that a comprehensive database of the poor and extreme poor is necessary, "Otherwise, no projects will be successful". He also suggested that marginalized people who have no assets may require some capital input, and microfinance institutions and banks may be able to assist in this regard.

Muhammad Jahangir, Media and Development Activist

Mr. Jahangir emphasized the potential effectiveness of central coordination. He suggested that the government and other organizations should focus their efforts on replicating successful programs, such as SHOUHARDO II, and that replication could therefore also be considered one measure of success.
He mentioned that employment opportunities lead to sustainable and secure livelihood protection, and urged the government to increase foreign missions to create overseas employment.

He also raised the fact that success stories from successful programs are not often highlighted by the media - rather, the focus is on political and sensational reporting. He argued that if successes in social protection were promoted, people would have a better understanding of achievements.

Dr. Binayak Sen, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

Dr. Sen reiterated the key problems we need to address in the social protection space, including engaging in the green revolution, disaster management, women's empowerment, and mitigating the effects of political conflict. He also placed emphasis on the role of income inequality.

He said there is a common notion that Bangladesh is a middle-income country, but this status does not necessarily indicate that we have achieved much. Our goal should be to be an inclusive, middle-income country with no extreme poverty.

Adding to suggestions that there be a database tracking the poor, Dr. Sen argued that not only poor but extremely rich people should be included. He also advocated increased the wealth tax and better utilization of existing taxes to fund social protection for the poor. Seeking new sources of finance would also enable greater coverage.

Finally, he emphasized the need for more rigorous evaluation and results in social protection programs.

Christa Rader, Representative, World Food Program

The speaker discussed the increasing focus on interventions in the poverty life cycle, cash advances and supports for women as a means of achieving long-term change, saying that while these models have so far not been taken up by the Government's social protection strategy, there is now an opening to include these.

Ms. Rader made two key points, suggesting that we strengthen the sustainability of improved livelihoods and food security through resilience-building, which are both fundamental focuses if we want to sustain the gains already made. Included in this is the importance of women's economic activity and diversification of investments, savings and improved physical shelter. Secondly, she stressed the importance of preventing under nutrition of adolescent girls, pregnant mothers and children under the age of two, ensuring that in addition to income, assets and livelihoods, women of reproductive age are increasingly targeted by social protections.

Ms. Rader also mentioned the importance of building resilience to idiosyncratic shocks such as illness, and wider shocks such as natural disaster.

She concluded by saying that investing in food security and nutrition must become an integral part of any national strategy of social protection, specifically including interactive communications methods to ensure sustainable behavior change.

Goran Jonsson, Senior Program Advisor, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
Mr. Jonsson presented statistics indicating that there are several examples of food security programs, including the SHOUHARDO II Program, that have successfully achieved sustained effects over three-year periods after program completion, especially among those that target women.

He stressed the importance of providing both a promotional safety net that means people can start a journey upwards out of poverty, while simultaneously providing a safety net to protect them should they suffer shocks and fall back into need.

He emphasized social cohesion, saying that poverty is multi-dimensional and that as "having nobody is sometime worse than having nothing", it is particularly important to reach out and include the marginalized and excluded. Social protection in Bangladesh should therefore build on the country's strong tradition of helping one's neighbors, building bridges in local communities.

He also raised the issues of rising inequality and its effects on demands for social protection, and named universal healthcare, access to insurance and financial opportunities as key protective tools.

Mr. Jonsson also shared some recommendations which are given in the below:

1. Build human capital as much as you can. This includes skills for future employability, but also life skills for better health, nutrition, sanitation, awareness of women’s rights, etc.

2. Don’t “graduate” beneficiaries from the project but to some other support mechanism, like public service providers.

3. Attempt to build social cohesion in local communities by bonding and bridging.

4. Ensure inclusion of marginalized groups, like dalits, abandoned women, beggars, people with disabilities, people displaced by natural disasters (they are seldom integrated in new host communities), ethnic groups, tea garden workers, river gipsies, etc. They are hard to reach and it takes specific measures to address their special needs.

5. Adapt to a changing risk landscape caused by climate change in the identification of emerging new vulnerabilities and how to respond to them.

6. Insurance is an indispensable complement to social assistance. Piloting insurance is not possible with the small risk pool provided by a project (the whole idea of insurance is a large risk pool), but consider cooperation with e.g. some of the PKSF Partner Organisations that nowadays provide insurance (like life term and livestock insurance), also with NGOs providing health insurance.

7. Ensure savings opportunities (= self-insurance) and other measures of financial inclusion.

8. Consider group formation as only “scaffolding” to deliver a project, recognizing that project groups hardly ever survive much beyond the project and are not much to build on for sustainable results. Instead refer beneficiaries to community based organisations relevant to them or ward level platforms like the Polli Shomaj groups.

9. Make a budget provision for an impact assessment not sooner than two years after the end of the programme and disseminate the lessons learned broadly.
**Questions and comments**

Some of the issues and questions raised by Seminar attendees included:

- Centralized control would ideally come from the district level.
- Under nutrition and social problems such as early marriage are due to inadequate social protection measures.

**Expert recommendations**

**Obstacles and challenges**

- Limited coverage of eligible beneficiaries and geographical areas
- Leakage of allocation within distribution systems and to ineligible beneficiaries
- Beneficiaries accessing multiple schemes (overlapping)
- Insufficient data on potential beneficiaries leading to poor targeting
- Beneficiaries' and distributors' ignorance of existing selection criteria and processes
- Poor food diversity in diets
- Lack of adequate resilience to food shocks
- Institutional constraints on women, for example on income generation and mobility
- Sustainability of change beyond program life
- Absence of strong governance, transparency and accountability (at all levels)
- Corruption of management in distribution channels
- Lack of coordination between programs and stakeholders

**Ways forward**

- Improved collaboration and coordination between stakeholders
- Fair management of distribution
- Creation of a central database with details of the poor and the very wealthy
- Inclusiveness and comprehensive coverage
- Decentralization of management to ensure local relevance
- Increased involvement of local government
- Engaging local elites and communities in funding and management
- Capital input from microfinance and banks
- Increased income-generating activities to relieve dependencies on cash transfers
- Nutrition for women of childbearing age (including adolescents) and children under 2
- Promotion of the availability and effectiveness of social protection schemes (locally, in the media, etc)
- Rigorous evaluation of programs
- Increased awareness of and planning for disaster risk management and coping
- Building women's empowerment and agency, especially women's livelihoods and mobility
- Resilience-building to support PEP through shocks
- Mitigating the effects of political conflict
- Diversification of investments, savings
- Improved physical shelter
- Broaden focus to include urban populations
Moderator's concluding remarks

Professor Abul Barkat, PhD, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka

Professor Barkat said that Bangladesh will have to go a long way before having a desired social protection system. He pointed out that 60 per cent of the total Government funding allocation for these schemes goes to non-poor people. He also criticized the amount spent, saying that the programs need to be better funded: "Bangladesh currently spends BDT 156 for a person under the social safety net. You can't have an effective social protection system with that amount of per capita spending".

The economist said the country also needs to think about the older people, as they currently account for about 7 percent of the population, but as the population ages, will account for 20 percent in 10 years' time.
Vote of thanks

Alexandra Maclean, Assistant Country Director, CARE Bangladesh

Ms. Alexandra Maclean thanked the speakers and guests for their participation, contributions, reiterated the importance of acting on the seminar's recommendations and continuing to advocate for improved social protection mechanisms.
The distinguished guests and speakers

A delegate asking the panel a question

Delegates contributed to discussions and challenged points of detail

Several media outlets covered the event

A moment of the event
National Seminar on
“Social Protection Interventions in Bangladesh: Key Challenges and Way Forward for Enhancing Food Security”
CIRDAP International Conference Centre, Thursday, 22 May 2014

Social Protection: Frontier issues

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Social Protection: Frontier issues

1. Introduction

Bangladesh has achieved reasonable economic growth and progress in social development in the recent years. There have been quantitative improvements in social and human development indicators.

The positive impact of economic growth, progress in social development and reduction in poverty has unleashed new challenges particularly in the realm of social protection. Sustaining the significant trends of growth may become increasingly difficult without an improvement in service delivery along with a more rapid reduction in poverty. The existing social protection programmes are mostly rural focused, with a limited coverage, backed by meager allocation, managed by fragmented bureaucratic set up. Therefore, a new approach for social protection is needed to respond to emerging challenges.

2. Emerging Challenges

Bangladesh has made a substantial progress in reducing poverty over the last few decades, yet the rate of decrease has slowed down in the recent years. The rate of poverty has reduced by 8.9 percentage points between 2000 and 2005 while during the next five years (2005-2010), the reduction of poverty was 8.5 percent points (Titumir, 2012)\(^1\). Thus the number of population living under the poverty line is still increasing (Rahman, 2012)\(^2\). The main reasons for this slowing down of the rate of reduction in poverty includes the rising urban poverty in the recent years due to rural urban migration, increasing climate induced vulnerabilities and also the price hike of essential goods and commodities.

Bangladesh is regarded as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change despite its resilient coping mechanisms. The frequency and magnitude of climate-induced hazards has been increasing over the years. From 1970 to 2009, the total number of major cyclones striking Bangladesh was 26, while the number of occurrences increased significantly since 1990. Due to the climate induced hazards the number of climate-induced displacement of people has increased. Based upon historical track records, a simulation estimation on future displacement reveals that approximately 63 million and 78 million people might be displaced in 2015 and 2020 respectively (Akter, 2010)\(^3\).

Labour market participation in Bangladesh has increased, but employment creation remains almost static, with lower absorption capacity in the formal sectors. The formal work environment has undergone a process of rapid transformation in the context of globalisation and technological change, leaving the majority of work force in the informal sector. The participation of formal sector in labour market witnessed a decline by 3.40 percent per year during the period from 1999-2000 to 2010. On the

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3 Akter, T. 2010. Climate Change and Environmental Displacement in Bangladesh, Scientific Briefing Series, 1(1), Unnayan Onneshan, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
other hand, the participation of informal sector has increased at an annual rate of 4.90 percent during the same period and consequentially every year a significant number of 1.8 million people had to join informal sector (Ali, 2013). In Bangladesh, the participation of women in the labour market has increased at a more accelerated pace than before. In the current global environment of open economies, new trade regimes, and competitive export industries, accumulation relies heavily on the work of women, both waged and unwaged. The rising share of women in the labour force is referred to as the feminisation of labour. The intrinsic compulsion for feminisation of labour force is reflected in differentiated rate of growth. The annual growth rate for female participation during 1999/2000 – 2010 was found 7.31 percent compared to 2.06 percent for male (Rahman, 2013). In 2010, 92.3 percent female were engaged in informal sector while male were 85.5 percent. The informalisation process has accelerated the rate of labour migration by creating job opportunities. The flows of migration both within and outside the country exist in Bangladesh, like many other countries, because of compulsion and survival. The rapid growth of population and the lack of availability of jobs force displacement from the rural areas, generating a growing flow of migrant work force (Islam, 2013).

Bangladesh has tripled its food production in cereals, yet the country is prone to a significant food shocks due to the steep rise in food prices. For instance, the price of the main staple, rice, is exposed to risks in global price volatility due to Bangladesh being a net food-importing country. The situation of food insecurity, monoculture and price volatility is omnipresent (Titumir, 2012). The strongest link between food availability and food access is determined through price mechanisms, and in recent years, the rapidly increasing food prices has made it difficult for the poor, low and middle-income group to have access to food. Bangladesh has however also made important strides in reducing child under-nutrition. The percentage of stunted children was 54.6 percent in 1996-1997 and reduced to 43.2 percent in 2007 with an annual average rate of reduction by 1.04 percent. The percentage of the wasted children has decreased from 17.7 percent in 1996-1997 to 17.4 percent in 2007 with an annual average rate of reduction of 0.12 percent. The percentage of the underweight children in Bangladesh has decreased from 56.3 percent in 1996-1997 to 41 percent in 2007 with an annual average rate of decline of 1.39 percent. Nevertheless, despite the increase in the nutritional status of children there exists an inequality between rich and poor households. Differences by wealth quintile show that children in the highest wealth quintile are less likely to be malnourished than those in lowest wealth quintile. The percentage of the malnourished (stunted, wasted and underweight) children decreases with the increase in wealth quintile (Titumir and Rahman, 2011).

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There has been an active participation of women in economic and social milieu of Bangladesh, yet the country is plagued with institutions-induced male-female differentiations. Despite the progress of the last few decades as regards women's health, education, nutrition, economic opportunities and political participation, still women in Bangladesh are far behind than men on these indicators (Rahman, 2013).9 Prevailing socio-cultural perceptions towards women is a significant challenge to progress. The rate of decline in the percentage of malnourished (BMI<18.5) women has reduced over the years. The rate in the percentage of the thin or malnourished women in Bangladesh has decreased from 52.0 percent in 1996-1997 to 29.7 percent in 2007. Maternal mortality ratio in Bangladesh has reduced from 478 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 216 live births per 100,000 live births in 2010 with an annual rate of 2.7 per cent. The expectation of life at birth for females has increased from 55.6 years in 1990 to 68.8 years in 2010 at a rate of 1.19 per cent per year. The annual rate of increase in adult literacy for women was 3.98, during 2001 to 2010 (Islam, 2013).10

Demographic transition i.e. declines in fertility and mortality has accelerated the process of population ageing. Ageing of population is gradually emerging as an issue embedded in social disintegration, gender discrimination, and poverty (Rahman, 2010).11 The percentage of the elderly population is increasing with the advancement of time. The percentage of the elderly population in 2050 is estimated to be about three times higher than the percentage in 2000. The key point here is that the elderly population keeps growing and will continue to grow (WPP, 2009).12 Population ageing has a significant impact on the development process of a country. As for example, the labour force is becoming elderly, the supply of labour at younger age is likely to decline. The lack of an effective social security system for the increasing elderly population in Bangladesh is a matter of growing concern.

3. Current Scenario of Social Protection In Bangladesh

There is no denying that the prevalence of institutional failures underwritten by the current political settlement, characterised as a state with governance deficits and limited access and order for the delivery of services to its citizen.13 The constitutional pledge of the government is to provide a decent

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living to its people. The government has taken several initiatives and there has been certain level of progress. This is less than the requirements to ensure such living standards to all and the peoples’ participation is far from being satisfactory. The main tool that the Government of Bangladesh uses for a social security purpose for the poor is the provision of social safety net programmes (SSNPs). These SSNPs are mainly delivered on an ad-hoc basis to cope with sudden vulnerabilities. The benefits of these programmes are short term in nature, though there are some long running programmes like vulnerable group development (VGD), vulnerable group feeding (VGF), food for work (FFW) programme, cash transfer programmes etc. It is observed that reasonable growth rates have led to declines in the percentage of poor but actual numbers of the poor have not declined at the same time expenditures on safety nets have fallen. Though safety net programmes are important components of the Government’s social protection strategy, expenditure on the programmes are fairly low and relatively declining to meet the current fiscal deficit – and lower than what other countries at similar levels of development spend on these programmes.

The current social protection scenario in Bangladesh is mainly responding to a crisis situation. In order to support the poor and vulnerable part of population, the successive governments have taken several steps under social protection schemes. The proposed budgetary allocation for social security and welfare in current fiscal year i.e. FY 2013-14 was BDT 123,660 million. Based upon historical track record, in most of the cases, the proposed budgetary allocation has witnessed a negative revision (Saleh et al, 2012).  

The coverage of population under social safety net programmes in Bangladesh is much lower than required. In the current fiscal year (FY 2013-14) the proposed allocation (as a percentage of the total budget) for the social security has reduced from the revised allocation of the previous fiscal year i.e. 12.2 percent of the total budget in FY 2012-13. This might be due to diversion of expenditure from social sector to meet the rising payment on account of principal and interest for the high public borrowing to finance the budget deficit in the recent years. Leakages from programmes show a strong correlation with the number of intermediaries in the transfer process. While different data sources point to varying estimates of leakage, the prevalence of this problem cannot be ignored. VGD and other food transfer programmes depend on the public food distribution system, with food being loaded and unloaded at a number of points before finally being delivered to beneficiaries. Primary education stipend project (PESP) also involves a large number of intermediaries involved in selecting students, disbursing stipends and monitoring the program. Leakages in the FFW programme have been estimated to be 26% (World Bank, 2003). A political and economic research council (PERC) report (GoB, 2003) shows that a large part of the budgetary allocations for the Female Secondary Stipend programme (about 20-40%) do not reach the beneficiaries and are perhaps appropriated by the schools and other intermediaries. However, there are considerable progresses like literacy rate (56.8 percent) and female literacy was 53.9 percent. Primary enrolment of girls was 87.8 percent. Secondary enrolment was 53.25 percent for girls.
There are too many ministries and administrative departments were involved in delivering social protections which is one of the key reasons for high administrative cost, overlapping and less effectiveness of the programmes. Furthermore, lack of co-ordination among the implementing ministries has remained a great concern. Implementation and administration of the programmes also need improvement. This is especially important with respect to coordination among ministries, consolidation of various programmes over time, improving delivery mechanisms by transferring directly to the beneficiaries, and strengthening local government capacity.

Table 5: Social Protection and Social Assistance in Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Social Protection</th>
<th>Social Empowerment</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(TK in Billion)</td>
<td>(% of Budget)</td>
<td>(TK in Billion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2013-14 (P)</td>
<td>198.4</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>55.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2012-13 (R)</td>
<td>174.8</td>
<td>9.23</td>
<td>56.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2011-12 (R)</td>
<td>172.4</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2010-11 (R)</td>
<td>167.6</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>41.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2009-10 (R)</td>
<td>134.4</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>32.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2008-09 (R)</td>
<td>113.6</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Various Budget Documents, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh

4. **Global social protection frameworks**

Globally, social protection is gaining increasing political attraction as a successful approach to poverty reduction. Evidence from well-designed and implemented social protection programmes from low and middle income countries consistently shows positive impacts on reducing the income poverty gap, smoothing consumption, and increasing access to basic services. Emerging evidence is also starting to demonstrate the potential of social protection initiatives to address broader risks and vulnerabilities, including reducing gender inequality, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and improving health and education outcomes, for example.

In Bangladesh, like many countries, social protection interventions developed out of a relatively narrow set of objectives, namely to address income poverty for the very poorest or most vulnerable, often based on categorical targeting (e.g. the elderly, female-headed households) or supporting households’ recovery in the wake of natural disasters. Increasingly however, the multidimensionality of poverty beyond simple measurements of income and the structural causes of poverty and vulnerability have gained political currency and are becoming increasingly influential in the types of poverty reduction approaches adopted, including social protection.
Indeed, current social protection approaches have been influenced by prominent theoretical and conceptual frameworks which move the debate beyond economic poverty towards a more holistic lifecycle, rights-based and equity approach. In terms of reference, key drivers of these approaches include the Transformative Social Protection Framework (Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004)\textsuperscript{15}, UNICEF’s\textsuperscript{16} social protection and equity framework (2012) and concepts of graduation developed by BRAC.\textsuperscript{17} Elements of these frameworks have been informed by, as well as adopted and adapted to varying degrees across; middle and low income countries (see Box - 1).

\textsuperscript{15} Devereux, S. and Sabates-Wheeler, R. 2004, Transformative Social Protection. IDS Working Paper 232, Publisher IDS


Box 1: Global approaches to social protection in middle and low income countries

Some governments have ensured a rights-based approach to social protection which entitles citizens to certain programmes and benefits.

In Brazil, for instance, the Benefício de Prestação Continuada, a means-tested disability and old-age pension, is enshrined in the Constitution (although the conditional cash transfer, Bolsa Família, is not). In India, the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act legally entitles poor rural households 100 days of employment a year. In South Africa, the right to social assistance is embedded in the Constitution.

Other countries have embedded social protection within broader social policy frameworks. In Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru, for instance, a single registry system tracks all services and programmes with which an individual interacts. The unification of beneficiaries under a single registry supports the integration of households into programmes such as food security, housing, banking and credit and judicial services. In Chile’s Chile Solidario programme, for example, the conditional cash transfer fits within an integrated approach to eradicate extreme poverty through interventions in three main areas – psychosocial support (family support), monetary transfers and priority access to social programmes.

Meanwhile, in another cluster of countries, social protection programmes are implemented as more stand-alone programmes by governments or non-governmental institutions (such as donors or non-governmental organisations) to tackle specific vulnerabilities. The non-governmental Building Resources Across Communities, for instance, implements the asset transfer programme in Bangladesh, Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction, in order to address chronic poverty. In Ethiopia, the government and donors work together to deliver the public works programme, the Productive Safety Net Programme, in order to tackle chronic food insecurity and environmental degradation. In Malawi and Zambia, donors have funded pilot cash transfer programmes to ultra-poor labour-constrained households.

Source: Holmes and Jones (2013)

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Table 6: Social Protection Categories and Instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of social protection</th>
<th>Social protection instruments</th>
<th>Role in reducing poverty and vulnerability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protective (social assistance)</td>
<td>• Social transfers • Disability benefit • Pension schemes • Subsidised access to social services</td>
<td>Immediate protection and relief from poverty and deprivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventative (insurance and diversification mechanisms)</td>
<td>• Social transfers • Social insurance • Livelihood diversification • Savings clubs; funeral societies</td>
<td>Prevents deprivation and damage to coping strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotive (economic opportunities)</td>
<td>• Social transfers • Access to credit, transfers/protection • Common property resources • School feeding • Agricultural starter packs • Public works programmes</td>
<td>Promotes resilience through livelihood diversification and improves security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformative (addressing underlying social vulnerabilities)</td>
<td>• Promotion of minority rights • Anti-discrimination campaigns • Social funds</td>
<td>Transforms social relations to address concerns of social equity, social justice and exclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Adapted from Davies and McGregor (2009); Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler (2004); Sabates-Wheeler and Devereux (2008).

5. Key Issues for Bangladesh

From global social protection frameworks to developing an appropriate national social protection strategy in Bangladesh, there are a number of salient features of these frameworks and approaches which lend themselves to support the development of a social protection strategy in a context like Bangladesh:

*Poverty and vulnerability are not static, and result from both economic and social risks:* A core element across the range of social protection conceptual frameworks is their focus on vulnerability (not just poverty), which highlights the dynamic nature of poverty (Barrientos and Hulme, 2008)\(^\text{19}\). Moreover,

there is a shift of focus which moves social protection beyond constituting a mere safety net, which largely confines its scope to targeted income and consumption transfers, and extends it to arenas such as equity, empowerment and economic, social and cultural rights (Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004; UNICEF, 2012). This incorporates a focus on chronic and structural vulnerability, and an equity lens which incorporates vulnerabilities caused by, for example, lifecycle risks, gender inequalities, marginalisation and exclusion.

The design and implementation of social protection must be embedded in a systems approach: It is increasingly recognised that to maximise the benefits of social protection it needs to be integrated into broader poverty reduction approach. An integrated system and development of a multi-sector approach is critical to enable social protection programmes to more effectively and efficiently address the multiple vulnerabilities that poor and vulnerable households face (UNICEF, 2012). This includes ensuring synergies and linkages between key elements of social protection and a range of social protection objectives – protection, prevention, promotion and transformation – which are critical components to enable households to graduate and move out of poverty (Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004).

Implementing institutions need to be strengthened to deliver social protection predictably, at scale, and in coordination with other programmes and services: Long-term national financing strategies are required in order to implement social protection interventions at scale, which respond to the needs of the population. These are not just technical or financial issues, but are also political choices (UNICEF, 2012). Effective institutional coordination at national and local levels can not only promote the development of an integrated approach to social protection, but also draw on a wide range of social protection tools in combination with relevant complementary services and programmes to better respond to the multiple vulnerabilities faced by the poor.

Indeed, as noted in the draft concept note, Bangladesh has significant building blocks already in place in social protection, in terms of design, implementation and institutional actors. However, while it is recognised that a “radical re-thinking” of social protection is not the aim here, the current challenges which the social protection sector faces (insert briefly again here) mean that indeed a new approach or vision to social protection, which builds on existing platforms, is urgently needed in order to improve the effectiveness of social protection to tackle poverty and vulnerability in Bangladesh now, and in the future.

As such, key areas of concern that the development of the national social protection strategy are:

- **Establishing coherent systems**: Currently social protection programmes in Bangladesh are multiple, fragmented and often ad hoc. There is an urgent need for the development of the social protection strategy to support a more coherent and coordinated system. There is a need to analyse the current landscape and make selective decisions about the effectiveness of existing programmes which may result in down-scaling the array of programmes to invest in a select few effective programmes. Moreover, analysing the current institutional set up, roles and responsibilities is needed, but also a thorough understanding of the political economy context, including institutional preferences, capacities and priorities.
- **Designing and delivering appropriate social protection programmes, at scale**: Development of a strategic consolidation of a menu of options for appropriate social protection responses to address the identified needs of the poor and vulnerable, which can be delivered at scale. Addressing the diversity of risk, vulnerability and the multi-dimensionality of poverty needs to
be considered, and social protection should not be seen as a one-off or stand-alone poverty intervention, but must be embedded in a broader social protection approach.

- **Improving existing programme performance**: A key challenge in Bangladesh is the effectiveness of allocating resources to social protection programmes. Focused and tailored design, implementation, and M&E can improve cost-efficiency of social protection interventions. Considerations of design (such as appropriateness of different types of SP instruments, benefit levels, targeting); implementation (institutional delivery capacity, staff numbers and skills; M&E); and institutional issues (actors roles (state and non-state), institutional priorities, coordination between actors both horizontally and vertically) are important here.

- **Identifying poverty and vulnerability dynamics**: Understanding, analysing and monitoring poverty and vulnerability dynamics at the individual, household, intra-household and community level is critical to inform appropriate social protection responses and to feed back to inform social protection design. An analysis of the existing social protection sector and the gaps in addressing poverty and vulnerability is a critical part of the development of the national social protection strategy. This may include a focus on the extent to which current SP programmes are addressing nutrition, urban poverty, health finance risk reduction, youth unemployment and climate change, for instance. Possible ideas for developing mechanisms to capture poverty and vulnerability dynamics on a regular basis could also be developed.

- **From safety nets to graduation**: A key issue importantly is the complexity of graduation from social protection programmes. Evidence primarily from Bangladesh (but also other countries) demonstrates a high degree of learning and innovation that has informed sequencing and pacing of interventions which respond to the reality that households face multiple dimensions of poverty and vulnerability, stemming from numerous and interlinked causes. This complexity in the context of Bangladesh needs to be considered to inform appropriate types of social protection programmes, as well as the need to link beneficiaries with complementary services, programmes, and an enabling environment.

- **Making Decentralisation happen**: Decentralisation has a long history in Bangladesh. The current system has sought to devolve political power to the local level, but many challenges persist, and the current status quo is more deconcentrated in nature. Decentralisation has huge implications for the design and delivery of social protection under a social protection strategy. However, while decentralisation has been well studied in the context of Bangladesh, knowledge on the links between decentralisation and social protection are relatively weak. This is a critical area of concern for the development of a social protection in Bangladesh: decentralised forms of governance have a huge influence on the design, delivery and the effectiveness of social protection programmes: even more so in the context of complex institutional contexts and changing environments – such as rapid urbanisation and migration. This can be positive (e.g. responding to local need) but it can also be negative (e.g. overburdening local capacities). There is therefore a need to understand the complexities of decentralisation in the context of social protection.

- **A thorough understanding on political settlement and institutions**: Current literature on political economy analyses of social protection focuses on the so-called three ‘I’s of social protection (Holmes and Jones, 2013). The first is institutions (e.g. elections, political party systems, informal politics) and how they shape social protection choices. The second concerns the interests of key actors (e.g. political elites, bureaucratic agencies, donors and civil society champions). The third relates to ideas held by elites and the public about poverty, the social contract between state and citizens, and the merits of particular forms of state support. A political economy analysis of the social protection sector might include questions to understand: the distribution of power amongst different groups and individuals in the social protection sector, and how different
actors interact with one another; the processes and structures which create, sustain and transform these relationships in the social protection sector over time; and what this means for the use of knowledge in policy making (e.g. see Shaxson et al, 2011)\textsuperscript{20}.

5. Conclusions

Policy decisions are political, shaped by the interests and interactions of various actors. Despite the Government’s investment in social protection in Bangladesh over the years, relatively little is known about the forms of politics that underpin social protection – factors which are just as important in explaining fiscal commitment to (or declines in) social protection as actual budget. Understanding, for instance, under what conditions do governments and political elites implement and sustain social protection policies and what role donors play as political actors, is critical in developing a sustainable national social protection strategy.

Introduction

Poverty and hunger are the products of inequitable power relations and resources distribution that deprive people of the capabilities and freedoms to achieve food security and sustainable livelihoods. In Bangladesh where over 150 million citizens have to live on only 15 million hectares of land making it one of the most densely populated countries. Extremely poor people’s lack of access to and control over assets limits their livelihood options, making them more vulnerable to shocks.

By analyzing the impacts of Social Protection interventions in addressing food insecurity and exploring their effectiveness in protecting and promoting the poor both in normal times and during emergencies in Bangladesh, this policy research makes the case that adaptive social protection can play an important role in tackling poverty, building and enhancing people's resilience to address disasters-risks, food insecurity and access to livelihood opportunities in Bangladesh.

Program Context

CARE’s global Food Security Strategy (FSS) embraces a comprehensive approach to social protection – one that promotes long-term resiliency using multi-sectoral and integrated program components. Rather than viewing social protection as only income and consumption transfers, CARE’s FSS combines traditional safety net mechanisms (i.e. direct food assistance in emergency contexts) with activities that promote and protect the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable women and their families, thereby reducing risk and vulnerability to shock. Corruption, lack of resources and lack of knowledge about the process, among other things, all create barriers to these entitlements. To systematically address these issues, SHOUHARDO II has already organized several workshops and discussion session with CARE staff, partner NGOs and communities at regional level.

Aims of the Roundtable Dialogue:

This seminar is the one of the large national level event of SHOUHARDO II with aims to:

i) The policy and legal environment affecting targeting for Social Protection Process

ii) Review the regional findings on how on how Social Protection initiatives could contribute more in protecting food security in Bangladesh

iii) Identify opportunities, challenges and strategies to effectively address issues and gaps and access of PEP in Social Protection interventions

And above all, pursue a policy environment for Social Protection to be more pro – poor in order to protect food security for sustainable development.

Working Title of the Event:

“Social Protection Interventions: Key Challenges and Way Forwards for Enhancing Food Security”
Particulars of the event:

Mode of Delivery: Presentation on keynote regarding the existing issues in relation to the title of the event followed by discussion from the key discussants, special guest, chief guest, open discussion, storytelling from the program beneficiaries, video presentations etc.

Preparation & Presentation of Keynote: The key note paper will be prepared from the reviewing of existing policy documents as well as program experience of CARE Bangladesh from the Haor, Chars and Main land with relevancy to the title of the event. Key note will be consist of a) country context including current situation, policies involved, law and practices; b) Program area with contextual analysis, importance of the issue in achieving the goal of the program, previous experiences and successes, current situation; c) Analysis of existing challenges related to Social Protection Interventions. The key note will initialize the discussion from where the discussion will expected to conclude with some recommendations for existing operations and policy.

Key and panel discussant: For bringing the context, challenges and solutions in the discussion, few key and panel discussant will be pre selected from the participant in form of Chief Guest, special guest, key discussants and moderator. Relevant law and policy makers, Academicians, Civil society activists, Journalists and Development Organizations to make constructive recommendations and way forward strategies.

Participants: A number of 150 people will participate including people who provide logistic and administrative support in the event. Optimum participation will be ensured from local and national level including beneficiaries of the program. The categories of the participants are as follows,

- Parliamentarians
- Government officials
- UNDP/WFP/EU representatives
- USAID officials
- Representatives from formal donors
- MYAP Partners
- Academicians
- Representatives from PEP
- NGOs, INGO, Development partners working on khas land issue
- Members of Civil Society
- CARE-B Participants
- RCS/RTMs from all CARE Bangladesh regions
- Media (Electronic & Print)

Documentation: The procedure, learning and recommendations for program and policy will be documented for future course of work. CARE will ensure the proper coverage national print and electronic media.

Expected outcomes from the event: The event will be fully optimized will participation of different level of people from top most law maker to extreme poor beneficiary of the bottom. The entire event will be designed such way that significant participation is ensured at some point. From the entire discussion we expect to have i) specific recommendations for program to face existing challenges of program implementation related to Social Protection interventions; ii) sustainable management of Social
Protection for poor and extreme poor; iii) changes required in existing law and policy to protect the rights and entitlements of the poor & extreme poor.

Roll out the recommendations: the Program teams will accumulate all the recommendations from the event and segregate those in accordance with program priorities. Followed by segregation strategies will be worked out for implementation. More follow up moves will be taken for the recommendations which are more policy related and not directly an issue of program implementation. Learning and recommendations will be disseminating among programs of CARE Bangladesh, to take the learning for present or future programming.
Annex 3: Invitation Card
We look forward to your participation.

[Signature]

CARE Bangladesh

Thank you for your interest and support. We are grateful for your continued participation in our efforts to improve the lives of women and children around the world.

[Contact Information]

[Note: The text is partially obscured and difficult to read.]

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Annex 4: Media Coverage

Hunger-free country by 2030, says minister

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Thursday said Bangladesh will become a hunger-free country by 2030.

“The Ministry of Planning has a dream to make the country free from hunger by 2030. I want support from all in this regard,” he said.

The minister said this while addressing a seminar titled, Social protection interventions in Bangladesh: Key challenges and way forward for enhancing food security organised by Shoukard-2 programme of Care Bangladesh at CIRDAP International Conference Center in the city.

“Bangladesh is not bottomless basket case any more. Now the basket is full of...and overflowing. In the last five years, the world recession touched almost everybody, but Bangladesh maintained an impressive growth during the period,” he added.

He went on saying, “Our social safety net is now widespread...it covers everybody. The world is changing. With the change people are also changing.

For this, our emphasis should be on education. We have to educate our people. I’m hopeful about the country as it is moving on the right direction.”

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for LCRD and Cooperatives Mashiur Rahman Ranga said there is a success in social safety net programme with a few exceptions.

“And the government has taken steps to decentralise the programme,” he added.

He further said, “Now we have to inspire all for income-generating works so that the beneficiaries can be self-reliant.”

In his keynote paper, Unnayan Onneshan chairman Prof Tashed Al Mahmud Titumir said currently social protection programmes in Bangladesh are multiple and fragmented and in many case adhoc ones.

Paul Sabatine, acting mission director of USAID Bangladesh, among others, also spoke on the occasion. —UNB
সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কার্যক্রমে
সমষ্টির পরামর্শ

নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠান

সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচিতে সময় আনার পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন ভিশেষজ্ঞ।
তারা বলেছেন, এ খাতে অর্থ বরাদ্দ ও বাজেট ব্যয় নির্দিষ্ট করতে হবে। স্থানীয়
সরকার প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আরও শক্তশালী করতে হবে। এর প্রাথমিক দাবিদ্রু দুরূহতায় বিষয়টি ও গুরুত্ব দিয়ে ভাবতে হবে। দূরূহতার জনপ্রীতি এর আওতায় অন্তত সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচির আওতায় বাড়াতে হবে। বাংলাদেশের
সামাজিক সুরক্ষা কার্যক্রম : খানা নিরাপত্তা উন্নয়নে মূল প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং তা
থেকে উন্নয়নের উপর শীর্ষের সমন্বয়ের বৃহস্পতিবার বক্তব্য এ সরকার বলেন।
রাজধানীর নিরাপত্তা অন্তর্জাতিক সমন্বয়ে কেন্দ্রীয় সমন্বয়ের আয়োজন করে
কেয়ার বাংলাদেশ। এতে প্রধান অর্থনীতি ছিলেন পরিকল্পনার শাহী মুন্ডা
কামাল। এছাড়া বর্তমান সরকার স্থানীয় সরকার, পলিক উন্নয়ন ও সমাজের প্রতিষ্ঠাত
মো মসুর রহমান রাশী, ইউএসএআইডির ভারপ্রাপ্ত মিশন ডিউটির পল
সাবাতিন। অনুষ্ঠানে পরিকল্পনার শাহী, সমাজের কোনো অংশ অন্ধকার
থাকতে প্রথমে প্রতিষ্ঠান এর প্রদত্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান এর সহযোগী হয়ে ওঠে।
এবং বাংলাদেশ সরকার সামাজিক
নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচিতে সর্বকালে অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়েছে।
সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচির
আওতায় সরকার বর্তমানে ১২টি কর্মসূচি চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে বলে জানান
পরিকল্পনার শাহী।
তিনি বলেন, প্রতি চারটি প্রকল্পের মধ্যে একটি
দারিদ্র্যবিদ্যায় সংক্রান্ত ও একটি শিক্ষা এবং প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত প্রকল্প নিচে
সরকার।
এর ফলে জনপ্রীতি শিক্ষায় প্রতিষ্ঠান হয়ে অর্থনীতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি
ও বয়সে স্বাভাবিক দিয়ে পারে। তিনি বলেন, সরকার শিক্ষা খানা রয়েছে
সিদ্ধাংশের মূল প্রতিষ্ঠান রয়েছে ভারপ্রাপ্ত মিশন ডিউটির পল
সাবাতিন।
ডাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপক বিভাগের অধ্যাপক আবদুল বারকাতের সমন্বয়ের
সমন্বয়ে মূল প্রতিষ্ঠান রয়েছে ভারপ্রাপ্ত মিশন ডিউটির পল
সাবাতিন।
ডাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যাপক বিভাগের অধ্যাপক আবদুল বারকাতের সমন্বয়ের
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সাবাতিন।
Bangladesh to be made hunger free by 2030: Kamal

DHAKA: Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Thursday said Bangladesh will be made a hunger-free country by 2030.

"The Ministry of Planning has a dream of making Bangladesh free from hunger by 2030. It'll surely happen. I want support from all in this regard," he said.

The minister said this while addressing a national seminar titled, Social protection interventions in Bangladesh: Key challenges and way forward for enhancing food security organised by Shouharto-2 programme of Care Bangladesh at Cirdap International Conference Center in the city.

"Bangladesh is not bottomless basket case any more. Now the basket is full of...and overflowing. In the last five years, the world recession touched almost everybody but Bangladesh maintained an impressive growth during the period," he added.

He went on saying, "Our social safety net is now widespread... it covers everybody. The world is changing. With the change people are also changing. For this, our emphasis should be on education. We have to educate our people. We want to see everybody getting education here. I'm hopeful about Bangladesh as it is moving in the right direction."

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mashuor Rahman Ranga said there is a success in social safety net programme with a few exceptions. "And the government has taken steps to decentralise the programme."
সেমিনারে পরিকল্পনামূলক
2030 সালের মধ্যে দেশ
ক্ষুধাও দারিদ্র্যমুক্ত হবে

ধন্য প্রতিদেন্ডক

2030 সালের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশকে ক্ষুধাও দারিদ্র্যমুক্ত রাখে হিসেবে গড়ে তোলা হবে বলে জানালেন পরিকল্পনামূলক আইন সম্মেলন। সরকারের পরিকল্পনার মধ্যে এটি অন্তর্ভুক্ত হবে জানালেন তিনি। গতকাল দুপুরে সিদ্ধিপথ অন্তর্ভুক্ত সংসদসভায় কেয়ার বাংলাদেশ আর্ওয়েজ বাংলাদেশের সরাসরি সামাজিক সংস্কার কর্মকাণ্ড থেকে সম্মেলনের মূল অংশ হিসেবে উল্লেখ করেন।

সুঝলা কামাল বলেন, সরকারের অন্তর্ভুক্ত হচ্ছে, দেশের বিভিন্ন পরিমাণ জনগোষ্ঠীকে জনপ্রজাতি রূপান্তর করা। জনপ্রজাতি আমদানী শুরু। তাই জনগোষ্ঠীকে কাজে লাগাতে সরকারের অন্তর্ভুক্ত হচ্ছে, তিনি বলেন।

সেদেশের দুপুরে পরিমাণ গড়ে তোলা হবে বলে জানালেন তিনি। তিনি বলেন, উন্নত দেশগুলোর দিকে তাকালে দেখা যাবে, তাদের উন্নতি অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা শুরু হবে। তাই আমদানী দেশের জনপ্রজাতি শুরু হবে। এ জন আমদানীর প্রধান টাইটলে নিশ্চিত হবে।

সেদেশের দুপুরে পরিমাণ গড়ে তোলা হবে তিনি। তিনি বলেন, আমদানীর দেশে অনেক মানুষ দারিদ্রীয় নিজেদের বাস করেন। সে কারণে সিদ্ধিপথ পরিমাণ তাদের সমাজকে ধরে রাখে।

এরপর পৃষ্ঠা ২, ফলাম ৬
কালের কর্ত্তব্য
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সেমিনারে পরিকল্পনামুল্য
কর্মমুখী শিক্ষায় নতুন
প্রকল্প নিচে সরকার

নিজস্ব প্রতিবেদন

সেমিনারে পরিকল্পনামুল্য আগের মূলধারে কাজ করা হলে, জনগণ কর্মমুখী শিক্ষায় শিক্ষিত হয়ে তথ্যবিজ্ঞান প্রদত্ত ও তাদের হাতে দিতে পারে, সেবা শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ সম্বন্ধে প্রকল্পকে প্রকাশ দিতে হবে।

মূল বলেন, বাংলাদেশ এখন আর তালাবাহী ঝুঁকি নয়, বরং অপার সম্ভাবনা পূর্ণ।

পত্রকাল বুদ্ধপত্রের রাজধানী সৌধ মিরপুর মিলনায়নের কেন্দ্র বাংলাদেশ আয়োজিত এক সেমিনারে সম্মান প্রদান অধিকারিক বক্তাব্য লিখন করা হল।

সেমিনারে মূল প্রকল্প উপস্থাপন করেন উমেশ আর্বনাথের চেয়ারম্যান অধ্যাপক রাশেন আল মাহমুদ চিত্রিশী। সেমিনারে স্বীকৃত সরকার প্রতিষ্ঠা সম্পাদক রহমান রাস, ইউএসএআইই ভারপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষামূলক সম্পদ চিত্রকীর্তি পক্ষে সাহায্য দেন। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিনী বিভাগের অধ্যাপক আয়ুন দারিদ্র সম্মেলনটি সাধারণ করেন।

পরিকল্পনামুল্য বলেন, বর্তমান সরকার সামাজিক নিরাপত্তার আওতায় বর্তমানে ৯২টি কর্মুক্তি চালিয়া যাচ্ছে। তিনি বলেন, বর্তমান সরকার শিক্ষা খাতে বর্তমানে বিভিন্ন শিরোনাম শিখায় দেখা যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশের জনগণ সুশিক্ষিত হলে জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিষ্ঠান উপায় মোকাবিলা করে তাতে খাঁটি খাওয়াতে পারবে।

সেমিনারে হাজী সরকার প্রতিষ্ঠাতা বলেন, ‘দারিদ্র দীর্ঘকালের কিছু প্রচিত কমিউনিটিদের সহায্যে প্রতিষ্ঠানের কার্যক্রমে সম্পূর্ণ করা যায়, তা আমাদের ভালবাসে হবে। এবং আমাদের কার্যক্রমকে এক্ষেত্রে রাখা নিরাপত্তাকে বাঢ়াতে হবে।

ইউএসএআইই ভারপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষামূলক সম্পদ চিত্রকীর্তি পক্ষে সাহায্য দেন। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিনী বিভাগের অধ্যাপক আয়ুন দারিদ্র সম্মেলনটি সাধারণ করেন।

মূল প্রকল্পের উপস্থাপনের চেয়ারম্যান অধ্যাপক রাশেন আল মাহমুদ চিত্রিশীর বলেন, সরকারের দারিদ্র বিভাগ কমপ্লিকে আরো সমাজযোগ্য করে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তার কর্মুক্তি আরও আরো বড় হবে। দারিদ্র বিভাগ বর্তমানে ২০০০ সালে ৪৮ দশকে ৮ শতাংশ ৮০০০ সালে ৩১ শতাংশ এবং ২০১৪ সালে ৯০ শতাংশ দাড়িয়েছে।
Planning Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal speaking at a national seminar on 'Bangladesh's Social Safety Net Programme: Key Challenges and Way Forwards for Enhancing Food Security' at CIRDAP International Conference Centre on Thursday.

'Bangladesh to be made hunger free by 2030'

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Thursday said Bangladesh will be made a hunger-free country by 2030, reports UNB.

"The Ministry of Planning has a dream of making Bangladesh free from hunger by 2030. It'll surely happen. I want support from all in this regard," he said.

The minister said this while addressing a national seminar titled, 'Social protection interventions in Bangladesh: Key challenges and way forward for enhancing food security.'

Organised by Shauhardo-2 programme of CARE Bangladesh, at CIRDAP International Conference Centre in the city.

"Bangladesh is not a bottomless basket case any more. Now the basket is full of ... and overflowing. In the last five years, the world recession touched almost everybody but Bangladesh maintained an impressive growth during the period," he added.

He went on saying, "Our social safety net is now widespread... it covers everybody. The world is changing. With the change people are also changing. For this, our emphasis should be on education. We have to educate our people. We want to see everybody getting education here. I'm hopeful about Bangladesh as it is moving in the right direction."

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mashur Rahman Ranga said there is a success in social safety net programme with a few exceptions. "And the government has taken steps to decentralise the programme."

He further said, "Now we have to inspire all for income-generating works so that the beneficiaries can be self-reliant."

In his keynote paper, Unnayan Onneshan chairman Prof Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir said currently social protection programmes in Bangladesh are multiple and fragmented and in many case adhoc ones.

Paul Sabatine, acting mission director, USAID Bangladesh, among others, spoke on the occasion.
কেঠায়ের সেমিনারে ইব্রাহিম খালেদ
দারিদ্র্য কমেলেও ধন
বৈষম্য ফ্রাস পায়নি

দারিদ্র্য কমেলেও ধন বৈষম্য ফ্রাস পায়নি
Online media coverage

- The daily Sun: [http://www.daily-sun.com/details_Hunger-free-country-by-2030,-says-minister_863_1_10_1_1.html](http://www.daily-sun.com/details_Hunger-free-country-by-2030,-says-minister_863_1_10_1_1.html)
- The daily Sangbad: [http://www.thedailysangbad.com/index.php?ref=MjBfMDVfMjMfMTRfMV8xNF8xNzE2MzQ2NQ](http://www.thedailysangbad.com/index.php?ref=MjBfMDVfMjMfMTRfMV8xNF8xNzE2MzQ2NQ)

Most Bangladeshi TV news outlets also reported on the seminar. More [find more news](https://www.facebook.com/USAID.Bangladesh) is available on the USAID and CARE Bangladesh Facebook and Twitter pages:

- [https://www.facebook.com/USAID.Bangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/USAID.Bangladesh)
- [https://twitter.com/CAREBdesh](https://twitter.com/CAREBdesh)